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Serial No. : 10/658,991  
Filed : September 9, 2003  
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**Amendments to the Abstract**

Please amend the Abstract appearing on page 40, lines 6-28, as follows:

-- This invention provides a method of increasing or maintaining the blood supply in the penis of a male subject which comprises administering to the subject an amount of vascular endothelial growth factor effective to increase or maintain the blood supply in the subject's penis. This invention provides a method of treating erectile dysfunction in a subject which comprises administering to the subject an amount of vascular endothelial growth factor effective to increase the blood supply in the subject's penis and thereby treat the subject's erectile dysfunction. This invention provides a method of increasing or maintaining the blood supply in the penis of a subject which comprises introducing a nucleic acid comprising a gene encoding a vascular endothelial growth factor into a suitable cell under conditions such that the nucleic acid expresses vascular endothelial growth factor so as to thereby increase or maintain the blood supply in the subject's penis. ~~This invention provides a method of increasing or maintaining the blood supply in the genital area of a female subject which comprises administering to the subject an amount of vascular endothelial growth factor effective to increase or maintain the blood supply in the subject's genital area.~~ --